

What is UTRAC?

The UTRAC process, its associated annual workshop and balloting system are all used to ensure that UDOT's Research Program is addressing the needs of the highway transportation community. Through these open and aggressive sessions users have the opportunity to express their needs and offer strategies that will keep UDOT on the leading edge of highway technology.

The topics described here will be reflected in the Research Annual work Program for FY 2000. The Research and Development Staff welcomes your comments on our program and process. Problem statements for consideration by UTRAC may be submitted at any time for the fiscal year 2001 program.

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UTAH TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL (UTRAC)

The Utah Transportation Research Advisory Council (UTRAC) provides oversight and guidance to the Research Division for the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). The Council reviews and approves the division's annual work program, establishes priorities for proposed studies, monitors the funding distribution, provides input related to principal investigators, and approves the manual of operation for the Research Program.

The Council consists of twelve voting members. It is chaired by the Engineer for Research and Development with the Research Program Manager serving as secretary. A representative is appointed from the Utah Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The remaining members are appointed biannually, on a rotating basis, and represent the key divisions and the regions of the Department. Advisors have been invited to aid the Council in the decision-making process from universities, research organizations, private industries, and other state agencies.

UTRAC Annual Workshop

Each year a workshop is held to help the Research and Development Division identify potential research for its annual research program. The emphasis of the meeting is to identify issues and topics that are inherent to UDOT's strategic goals to maintain a reliable transportation system.

UTRAC held its seventh annual workshop on March 17-19, 1999 at the University of Utah. Attendees from public and private universities, research organizations, consulting firms, and planning agencies, as well as federal and local government entities joined a contingent of UDOT personnel in this organized brainstorming session. Participants were assigned to one of five breakout sessions:

1. Construction & Maintenance
2. Materials & Pavements
3. Hydraulics, Environmental, Landscape, & Roadway
4. ITS, Planning, Traffic & Safety
5. Geotechnical & Structures

A facilitator aided each group through a process to recommend their top five problem statements for consideration by the Council for funding. Each problem statement listed specific research goals, tasks to be completed, and how the results of the study would be used. Administrative related problem statements were also solicited separately from the workshop.

